

Question for CBSA

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Date: Sat, 05 Feb 2022 11:09:17 -0700

Hi Ranjit

AgFor is reporting that Regway, SK may be open for live animal inspection but that this is unconfirmed (see section in yellow).

Can you please confirm with your contact at AgFor whether or not they are confirming this information or if they want Transportation to reach out to CBSA?

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Here is the piece from AgFor:

- Broader impacts to the food supply chain attributable to the Coutts blockade are unlikely to be measurable for another 1-2 weeks. The effect on Alberta abattoirs will not be felt for 1-2 weeks.
- Grain and other goods are still moving across the border via rail and through alternate ports, though cost increases and delays may be significant.
- Coutts is the only US border crossing in Alberta providing veterinary services required for international / long haul transport of live animals. Alternate border crossings that offer inspection services for live animals, which is the responsibility of USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service include: Kingsgate, BC/Eastport, Idaho (491 km from Coutts); North Portal SK (864 km from Coutts); Emerson MB (1303 km from Coutts); Possibly Regway, SK but this has not been confirmed (792 km from Coutts)
- As of Fri 4 Feb, Canadian Meat Council (CMC) report about 150 loads of meat have not been shipped due to concern that delays at the Coutts border crossing or the additional transport time coupled with potential delays at alternate border crossings will not allow product to reach store shelves with an adequate remaining shelf life or before it spoils (e.g. meat trimmings have only a 5 day shelf life).

- o Most loads are now moving to Del Bonita which is not an authorized inspection port of entry. Loads crossing at Del Bonita must double back to Sweetgrass, on the US side of the Coutts border crossing, for inspection by FSIS/USDA. Sweetgrass inspection office has added extra staff to deal with the backlog.
 - o Alternate border crossings for inspection of meat shipments, which is a responsibility of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service include: Emerson MB (1303 km from Coutts) and Aldergrove BC (1227 km from Coutts).
- Further details on border services for agricultural commodities have been requested from the US Consulate in Calgary.
- Feedlot operators are reporting very serious grain shortages, which started with the drought and is now compounded by the BC floods and the Coutts blockade. Lack of feed and storage is forcing them to ration the feed on site.
 - o [REDACTED] has reported that it is planning to shut down for at least one day next week due to border issues. Inability to ship beef has resulted in reduced storage capacity in processing plants, meaning animals scheduled for slaughter are being held on feed longer than expected.
 - o Other meat facilities may also be considering a slow down.
 - o The Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Beef Producers and Canadian Cattlemen's Association have publically stated their significant concerns with supply chain challenges, including the need to access to feed from the US.
 - o Canfax reported that the feedlot inventories are trending less current, meaning that the supply of market-ready fed cattle is growing. Lower fed cattle prices are anticipated next week if processing plants cannot increase harvest rates.
 - o YTD total cattle slaughter in Western Canada is running 2.0 per cent below 2021.